



Honoring those who inspire the best in all of us.

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**Carmen Guaigua and Jesse Holloway
Honored with Essence of Humanity Award**

Lancaster, Pa. (February 1, 2010) – Carmen Guaigua of Lancaster and Jesse Holloway of Ephrata were honored with Essence of Humanity Awards recently by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lancaster. The awards were presented at the United Way Thank You Celebration on January 21.

The Essence of Humanity Award is intended to recognize individuals who, beyond the requirements of their work, demonstrate remarkable human qualities including courage, love, strength, determination, and persistence when dealing with adversity. The award also honors those who demonstrate a spirit of caring and provide inspiration to such individuals on a daily basis.

About Carmen Guaigua

Carmen immigrated to the US with her parents and siblings from Ecuador when she was 8, and a job for her father brought the family to Lancaster in 1991. With grown-up responsibilities at an early age, and later being asked to leave the house at age 16, Carmen had a difficult childhood. She turned to her mentors at school, completed high school with flying colors, and moved on to earn a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in business administration. Her childhood was transformed into a very successful adult life. Carmen currently is pursuing a Ph.D. and has a fulfilling career at a local business. She volunteers for the Literacy Council, the YWCA, and Prescott House. In addition, she recently became a volunteer at Big Brother Big Sister and has been paired with a 13

year old girl who has quite a mentor. In September of 2009, Carmen joined the board of Big Brother Big Sister of Lancaster County. It is her goal to help other young people beat the odds, just as she did. Carmen lives by the motto, “You can’t always be a receiver, you have to be a giver.”

About Jesse Holloway

Jesse had a troubled childhood as well. He was introduced to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lancaster County and matched with a Big Brother who showed him the world outside of his household and remained in touch with him through some troubling times over the next four years. Jesse realized that he wanted to improve his life and do better in school. He finished high school and began working, and then he decided to give back by volunteering as a Big Brother like the man who had helped him. Now Jesse and his Little Brother go to art galleries, go canoeing, and go to fairs. He helps with homework and just to “lend an ear.” They even give back together, serving meals at the Water Street Rescue Mission. Jesse also volunteers with Design-o-rama-thon, a campaign in which graphic designers choose charities and create marketing materials at no cost. Jesse’s latest charity of choice was House of His Creation, a safe haven for teenage mothers. By taking his experiences and turning them around, Jesse is encouraging the next generation to be caring and giving, just like him, and just like his own mentor. These attributes define the Essence of Humanity Award.

About Essence of Humanity

The intent of the Essence of Humanity Award is to honor those who inspire the best in all of us through the award and by elevating their stories. The program began in 2001 when business and community leaders in South-Central Pennsylvania established the award. The award is presented by participating organizations in collaboration with the Essence of Humanity program’s steering committee, which evaluates the nominations. For more information, contact Robin Stauffer, Executive Director, at 717-293-4498, or visit the website at www.essenceofhumanity.org.

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